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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/849,455	05/04/2001	David J. Thomsen	33362.8001US1	8660
25096	7590	12/03/2003	EXAMINER	
PERKINS COIE LLP			WONG, LESLIE	
PATENT-SEA			ART UNIT	
P.O. BOX 1247			PAPER NUMBER	
SEATTLE, WA 98111-1247			2177	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

TS

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/849,455

Applicant(s)

THOMSEN, DAVID J.

Examiner

Leslie Wong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 and 47-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 47-49 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 and 50-56 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Election was made without traverse of Group I, claims 1-25 and 47-56, in Paper No. 6 is acknowledged. Group II, claims 26-46, are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a non-elected.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 47 is objected to because of the following informalities: the second "is" on the last line of claim 47 should be "on". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 50-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Levey** (US 2001/0032097 A1).

Regarding claim 50, **Levey** teaches a method for providing a user with economic data over the Internet, comprising:

- a). providing over the Internet a display description identifying a plurality of databases for economic data, the economic data including at least one of compensation data, cost of living data and employee benefits data with at least two of the databases providing similar types of data obtained from different sources and based on different populations (§ 0033 and 0007);
- b). receiving a selection from a user over the Internet of one of the databases (§ 0033 lines 1-5);
- c). receiving a query from the user over the Internet for data contained in the one database (§ 0033 lines 1-5);
- d). retrieving data from the one database in response to the query from the user (§ 0033 lines 5-11); and
- e). displaying to the user over the Internet the data corresponding to the query (§ 0033 lines 9-11).

Regarding claim 51, **Levey** further teaches wherein identifying a plurality of databases includes identifying a first database containing data gathered by a governmental entity and identifying a second database containing data received from users over the Internet (§ 0006 and 0007).

Regarding claim 52, **Levey** further teaches wherein the first and second requests are received from a single user (§ 0033 lines 1-5).

Regarding claim 53, **Levey** further teaches wherein the first request is received from a first user and the second request is received from a second user (§ 0033 lines 1-5).

Regarding claim 54, **Levey** further teaches checking the input data for validity by determining whether the input data are consistent with economic data in the database of the same type as the input data (§ 0024).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Levey** (US 2001/0032097 A1) in view of **Almog et al.** (US 2002/0002479 A1).

Regarding claims 1, 4, 14, and 23, **Levey** teaches a method and computer-readable medium in a computer system for exchanging economic data with a user, comprising:

a). receiving a request from a user for a first item of economic data, the first item including at least one of wage data, cost of living data, cost of labor data and employee benefit data (§ 0033 lines 1-5);

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b). retrieving the first item of economic data from a database (§ 0033 lines 5-10);

c). providing over the Internet a web page for view by the user, the web page displaying the first item of economic data (§ 0016 lines 1-3);

d). receiving a second item of economic data from the user over the Internet in exchange for the first item of economic data, the second item of economic data including at least one of wage data, cost of living; data and employee benefit data (§ 0033 lines 1-5);

e). checking the second item of economic data for validity by determining whether the second item of economic data is consistent with economic data in the database of the same type as the second item of data (§ 0024);

f). updating the database to include the second item of data if the second item of data is determined to be valid (§ 0027).

g). **Levey** does not explicitly teach a step of providing the first item of economic data to the user free of charge.

Almog et al. teaches wherein providing the first item of economic data to the user free of charge (§ 0129).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to providing the first item of economic data to the user free of charge because doing so would encourage user to provide information to the database.

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Regarding claims 2, 9, 10, 18, and 19, **Levey** further teaches wherein determining whether the second item of economic data is consistent with the economic data in the database includes determining whether the second item falls within two standard deviations of a mean for data in the database averagable with the second item of data (§ 0024 and 0028).

Regarding claims 3, 8, 17, and 24, **Levey** further teaches wherein receiving the second item of economic data includes receiving at least one of the user's geographic location, position, years of experience in the position, annual salary and annual bonus or incentive payment (§ 0027).

Regarding claims 5, 6, and 15, **Levey** does not explicitly teach wherein at least reducing a fee due from the user includes eliminating any fee due from the user for the first item of economic data.

Almog et al. teaches wherein providing the first item of economic data to the user free of charge (§ 0129).

Regarding claims 7 and 16, **Levey** further teaches wherein providing the first item of economic data includes providing domestic and/or international wage data, cost of living data, cost of labor data and/or employee benefit data (§ 0033 and 0034).

Regarding claims 11 and 20, **Levey** further teaches updating the database to include the second item of economic data (§ 0027).

Regarding claims 12, 21, and 25 **Levey** further teaches wherein the user request is a first user request and wherein the method further comprises:

- a). receiving over the computer network a second user request for economic data (§ 0033 lines 1-5);
- b). retrieving economic data from the database in response to the second user request after the database has been updated to include the second item of economic data (§ 0027 and 0028); and
- c). displaying the economic data to the user over the computer network in response to the second user request, the economic data being based at least in part on the second item of economic data in the database (§ 0033 lines 5-11).

Regarding claims 13 and 22, **Levey** further teaches wherein the first item of economic data can be based on a plurality of data sources, and wherein the method further includes receiving a request that the data be based on a selected subset of the plurality of data sources (§ 0007).

7. Claims 55-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Levey** (US 2001/0032097 A1) as applied to claims 50-54 above and in view of **Almog et al.** (US 2002/0002479 A1).

Regarding claims 55 and 56, **Levey** does not explicitly teach wherein at least reducing a fee due from the user includes eliminating any fee due from the user for the first item of economic data.

Almog et al. teaches wherein providing the first item of economic data to the user free of charge (§ 0129).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to providing the first item of economic data to the user free of charge because doing so would encourage user to provide information to the database.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 47-49 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Prior art of record fails to teach a combination of elements including updating the sample size to be a second sample size greater than the first sample size and indicating over the Internet that the sample size on which the second output data is based on the second sample size as recited in independent claim 47.

9. Claims 48 and 49 are allowable because of their dependency on claim 47.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Baumgarten et al. (US 2002/0026452 A1)

Perell et al. (US 2001/0047347 A1)

Turnasella (US 2003/0145015 A1)

Thomas (US 2002/0002482 A1)

Vivona (U.S. Patent 5,960,407)

Zhang et al. (US 2002/0188542 A1)

Barton (US 2002/0046074 A1)

Plunkett et al. (US 2002/0143752 A1)

Farkas et al. (US 2003/0208388 A1)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leslie Wong whose telephone number is (703) 305-3018. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9:30am - 6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.


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Leslie Wong
Patent Examiner
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lw
November 29, 2003



JEAN R. HOMERE
PRIMARY EXAMINER